

MAKING SENSE OF THE WTO's AGENDA

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As everyone now knows, the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Seattle (November 30 to December 3, 1999) was interrupted by protesters who were mostly peaceful. Over-reaction by local police led to the "Battle of Seattle". As an acknowledgment of this over-reaction, the Seattle chief of police has now resigned.¹

The main goal of the WTO's Seattle meeting was to begin a new round of international talks: the so-called Millennium Round, which was expected to last three years. That goal was thwarted. Emboldened partly by protesters in Seattle's streets, Third World envoys to the WTO rejected a new round of talks.²

So the Millennium Round will not begin, at least not right away. Delaying the new talks was a sweet victory for the protesters and an important assertion of independence by Third World countries. But we should not fool ourselves. The WTO is still entirely intact. It was not changed in any fundamental way by the protests. More importantly, the goals and the powers of those who created the WTO remain untouched.

The people who created the WTO have one main goal: an integrated global economy unencumbered by government restrictions. The globalisation of the world's economies is proceeding steadily and cannot be stopped. The world's economies are being laced (or yoked) together by communication technologies (radio, TV, telephones, fibre optic cables, satellites and computers, among others). A flood of invention is inexorably weaving (or chaining) the strands of the world's economies into a single, huge network of relationships.

No one can stop globalisation from happening. However, governments could take many steps to reduce the harmful consequences for human societies.³ Unfortunately, the people who created the WTO are ideologically opposed to any government involvement. They have their own utopian vision: a globalised economy unencumbered by government restrictions—global free trade. Economists have a name for such an economy: *laissez faire*. In a *laissez faire* economy, the owners of capital are free to make all the important decisions: they decide what to make, how to make it, where to get the raw materials, whom to employ (under what conditions and at what wages), and where to sell their products or services. In a *laissez faire* economy, the role of government is limited to enforcing property rights, assuring a stable currency, providing a system of justice for resolving disputes, and maintaining a military apparatus to enforce civil and international peace.

Government has one other key role in a *laissez faire* economy. To maintain such an economy, government must relentlessly thwart democratic tendencies among the governed. If governments don't relentlessly oppose democratic tendencies, people will soon direct their government to (for example) limit the length of the workday, guarantee their right to form a trade union, insist that everyone deserves health care, and set minimum wages—all of which doom *laissez faire*. This is why *laissez faire* economies are incompatible with political democracy. *Laissez faire* economies do not arise spontaneously and can only be sustained if the state aggressively suppresses democratic tendencies.

The WTO isn't mainly about trade; it is mainly about establish-

ing the kind of economy, worldwide, in which the owning class gets to make all important decisions without interference from governments or from anyone else. Today, the key institution of the owning class is the corporation, so the aim of the WTO is to ensure that corporations are empowered to make all the important decisions without interference.

To put it another way, the main work of the WTO isn't promoting world trade; it is getting rid of rules made by governments, rules that restrict the freedom of corporations to make decisions affecting production and labour. Government rules are described as "restrictions on trade", but this "trade" language is a euphemism for "restrictions on corporate freedom". To summarise, then, the WTO isn't chiefly concerned with trade; it is chiefly concerned with "who gets to decide". When governments are weakened, corporations are strengthened. The WTO was set up to weaken governments.

There are two other realities that we need to remember if we want to make sense out of the WTO: (1) the developed countries have exhausted many of their reserves of raw materials; and (2) they have built too much productive capacity, so there aren't enough customers for all the goods they can produce.⁴ Thus, to maintain reasonably profitable operations, corporations need to mine the Third World's raw materials and they need to sell goods and services to people in the Third World.

Take the United States as an example. The US has depleted many of its domestic reserves of raw materials such as petroleum, chromium, cobalt, manganese, nickel and tin, among others.⁵ Therefore it is important for US corporations to be free to extract such materials from Third World countries and ship them elsewhere. Furthermore, the US produces far more food each year than Americans can eat. So agribusiness corporations need to "open new markets" in the rest of the world to sell their excess production, competing head-to-head with local farmers abroad.⁶

When foreign governments are reluctant to import hormone-treated meat or genetically modified corn oil from the United States, the US agribusiness corporations insist that those governments are restricting their corporate freedoms—and so they turn to the WTO to whittle those governments down to size.

Endnotes

1. Verhovek, Sam Howe, "Seattle Police Chief Resigns in Aftermath of Protests", *New York Times*, December 8, 1999, p. A13.
2. Kahn, Joseph and David E. Sanger, "Seattle Talks on Trade End With Stinging Blow to US", *New York Times*, December 5, 1999, pp. A1, A14.
3. Krugman, Paul, *The Return of Depression Economics*, W.W. Norton, New York, 1999, ISBN 0-393-04839-X.
4. *ibid.*
5. US Geological Survey, *Minerals Yearbook: Metals and Minerals 1996, Volume 1*, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1998.
6. Barboza, David, "Is the Sun Setting on Farmers?", *New York Times*, November 28, 1999, pp. C1, C14.

Editor's Notes:

- This article by Peter Montague is reprinted from *Rachel's Environment & Health Weekly*, no. 679, December 9, 1999; published by Environmental Research Foundation, PO Box 5036, Annapolis, MD 21403, USA, tel 1-888-2RACHEL (toll-free in North America) or (410) 263 1584, fax (410) 263 8944, e-mail erf@rachel.org, website www.monitor.net/rachel/.
- For more on the WTO agenda, see Corporate Europe Observatory's two-part article, "The WTO Millennium Bug", in NEXUS 7/01 and this issue.

PROBING THE 'CHEMTRAILS' CONUNDRUM

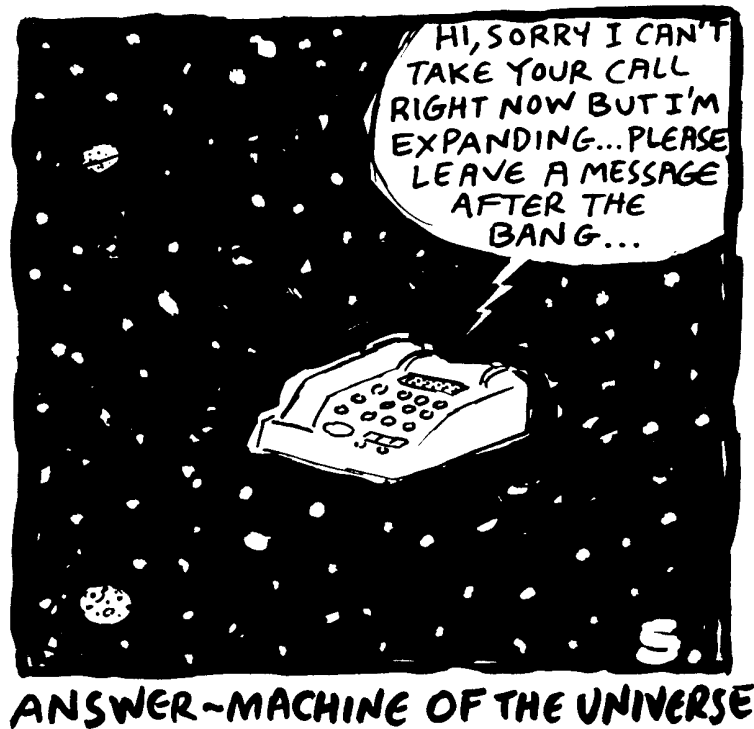
by William Thomas © 1999

THE PHENOMENON

Once you have watched two, six, eight or more unmarked planes weave broad white plumes into cross-hatched grid patterns, giants Xs or furrows of expanding parallel lines that turn clear blue sky into a milky, dripping overcast that sometimes reveals prismatic bars of chemical colouring, you will never look at the sky in the same way again.

In the representative words of eyewitnesses across 48 states:

- "I watched a clear blue sky become criss-crossed with the white trails from many jets. The sky then became overcast, in spite of the forecast calling for sunny weather. I felt stunned as I witnessed this event."
- "One morning I saw so many, I almost had a car accident. They were X-ing, probably 50, 100 of them, as far as I could see. Lots of Xs and parallel lines. Definitely not normal air traffic."
- "They look like they're playing tic-tac-toe up there. You know darn well it's not passenger planes."
- "These contrails do indeed behave differently from the usual contrails made by jets. They don't dissipate right away. They like linger, hang there. But they were so heavily concentrated that I just about fell over."
- "Everywhere from horizon to horizon, as far as I could see above the trees and buildings, perfectly parallel streaks or stripes of clouds..."
- "I am under the understanding that we have regular flight patterns. This, however, broke all the rules, as these patterns criss-crossed one another over a dozen times."
- "Real jet trails are not as low as these."



UNSCHEDULED AIR TRAFFIC

Why are people who have lived next to airbases and airports most of their lives, or who would not normally give a contrail a second glance, stopping their cars and hauling family members and neighbours outside to point cameras and camcorders at sudden concentrations of aerial trails they instinctively recognise are not normal contrails?

Why are formations of grid-weaving jets suddenly appearing over communities unused to seeing air traffic? How can these overflights be explained as "scheduled air traffic" when they abruptly cease, only to start up again weeks later?

According to Canadian and US aviation officials, pencil-thin contrails normally form above 33,000 feet and usually dissipate within less than a minute, like the wake behind a ship. In contrast, the broad white plumes known as "chemtrails" are often spread by formations of tanker-type aircraft, far below commercial airliners, that even in colder upper-air leave short-lived contrails or no contrails at all.

Commercial airliners prominently display their airline logos, "colours" and registration numbers. Spray aircraft of the KC-135 and KC-10 type, observed through binoculars, are painted white and carry no identification markings.

Interestingly, CIA aircraft are painted white. According to security personnel, their late-night departures and arrivals at major US airports are not entered in tower logbooks.

AIRBORNE PATHOGENS AND RELATED ILLNESS

Contrails do not make people sick. Yet many observers have become ill within 48 hours of watching *chemtrails* form. A metallic, oily or corrosive smell and taste has also been widely reported in the wake of chemtrails.

"Spikes" in emergency room admissions match by date and location reports of heavy "spray days". Last winter, during 15 consecutive weeks of what the Centers for Disease Control called "epidemic levels" of pneumonia and upper-respiratory illness, hospital admissions across the US jumped up to double the normal peak-flu-season rates, even in states reporting a "mild" flu season. MDs across America told the *New York Times* and other newspapers:

- "This is the worst crisis I have seen."
- "Respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses are filling up the beds."
- "We know there's a lot of sickness, but our diagnosis shows that it's not the flu."
- "We don't know what it is or where it came from."

Often degenerating into double-pneumonia or asthma, these severe "flu-like" symptoms lingered for months.

In November 1999, residents in heavily sprayed areas—including Arizona, Virginia, Tennessee, Oregon, Washington state, New Mexico, Colorado, California, Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, North Carolina and southern Vancouver Island—were also complaining of extremely severe headaches, stiff necks, fatigue and joint pain. Other symptoms associated with heavy spraying include disorientation, depression, inexplicable anxiety and an inability to concentrate.

PUBLIC OUTCRY IN ESPANOLA, ONTARIO

On November 18, 1999, a petition submitted by 500 residents from the community of Espanola, Ontario, was submitted to the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa.

The residents of this small town located west of Sudbury, Ontario, demanded an end to the continuing spraying. They also wanted an explanation for widespread respiratory problems and strange aches and pains among Ojibway people over a 50-mile area following spraying by KC-135 and C-130 aircraft that began in March 1999.

Former Ontario Provincial Police Officer Ted Simola reported lingering Xs and numerous contrails, some of which "just ended" as if they had been shut off and remained in the sky.

Tests on rainwater, conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Environment, found carbon black as well as "chaff" used to jam radar signals—or track airborne dispersion patterns. The Canadian Health Protection Branch says chaff is highly toxic to human lungs.

Yet Espanola, Ontario, is not a US military exercise area. The US Air Force denies flying its aircraft over Espanola.

But gel-like material was also dropped on patios by aircraft passing over the rooftops of Espanola. Samples of a red powder dropped by a low-flying C-130 *Hercules* are being further analysed, after initial lab tests found highly hazardous bacilli and moulds in a substance that has sickened children and adults.

SAMPLE ANALYSIS AND EXPOSURE EFFECTS

Tests done in 1998 and 1999 by government-licensed laboratories on cobweb-like filaments, gel-like material and a red powder dropped by aircraft over Washington state, California, Oklahoma, Idaho, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Espanola, Ontario, have identified: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, *Streptomyces*, Enterobacteriaceae, *Serratia marcescens*, human white blood cells, a restrictor enzyme used in research labs to snip and combine DNA, *Enterobacter cloacae* and other bacilli and toxic moulds capable of producing heart disease and meningitis as well as acute upper respiratory and gastrointestinal distress.

After my colleague, health researcher Erminia Cassani, brought in samples of a gel-like material obtained from a thoroughly splattered aluminium-sided home, a shaken head-biologist at an EPA-licensed lab wanted to know where we had obtained this "biohazard material".

Normally taking three or four days to grow in a Petri dish, Cassani's bacteria-laden sample "flowered" less than 48 hours after being cultured. Stating that "it was all over the plate", the lab staff said they had never seen anything grow this quickly.

Less than two months later, the owner of the splattered home and property suffered a heart attack caused by bacteria eating the walls of her heart.

BIOWARFARE TESTS ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The recently revised US Code Title 50, Section 1520 states that the Secretary of Defense may conduct tests or experiments "involving the use of a chemical agent or biological agent on a civilian population" if they are related to research activity.

The law also stipulates that biowarfare tests can be carried out on Americans only if Congress is notified 30 days in advance,

and "only if informed consent to the testing was obtained from each human subject in advance of the testing on that subject".

There is plenty of pattern and precedent to suggest that clandestine biowarfare experiments are routinely practised on the American people without their informed consent. As recently as 1997, 61 secret tests sprayed the residents of Minneapolis with germ warfare simulants over a period of several months. Respiratory illness increased sharply in the sprayed areas.

NO EVIDENCE FOR AERIAL INOCULATIONS

Could widespread aerial spraying be an attempt to inoculate us against an undeclared biowarfare threat?

After looking at the evidence, one MD decided: "Aerial spraying of a vaccine would be exceedingly inefficient. Cost would be prohibitive. That is why I do not think the mass secret immunisation theory is plausible."

Or as my colleague Cassani puts it more particularly: "*Pseu. fluorescens* is a 'dud' when compared to biowarfare agents. It would do absolutely nothing to our immune system to inure it against a bio-attack."

There is no indication that air-delivered vaccines are yet in production. And none of the immune-weakening pathogens identified in samples of air-delivered cobweb-like material or gels can be construed as an antidote to germ warfare.

CALL FOR CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY

Commensurate with the hearings that uncovered the truth behind the Gulf Bio-War and resulting Gulf War illness, a full congressional investigation must be called to question key FAA, CIA, CDC, EPA and other administrative officials under oath.

The questions are simple: What is the purpose and who is behind the sudden concentrations of unmarked, tanker-type aircraft emitting lingering plumes of stripes, Xs and grids over American and Canadian towns and cities? What is the purpose of the low-level spraying by C-130 *Hercules* transports and unmarked black or dark-green helicopters over Pegosa Springs and Fort Collins, Colorado; Burnette, Texas; Espanola, Ontario; and other towns across North America—and who is responsible?

Congress must also demand a full accounting of all US military weather modification techniques and experiments, as well as a publicly accessible monthly description of all experiments undertaken at Level 4 and Level 5 bio-labs across the country.

Editor's Notes:

- Compiled and edited, with permission, from independent journalist William Thomas's briefing paper, posted on his website, www.islandnet.com/wilco. For additional information, corroborating documentation and permission to reproduce this material, e-mail William Thomas at wilco@islandnet.com.

- For background, see Thomas's article, "Poison from the Sky: The 'Chemtrails' Crisis", in NEXUS 5/03 (April–May 1999).

- William Thomas's new book, *Probing the Chemtrails Conundrum*, reveals the results of his 12-month investigation into covert aerial spraying. Is it population control? Inoculations? A solar sunscreen? Mind control? Review the evidence and decide for yourself. For a signed copy of this 80-page book, send donation of USD\$29.95 or more to: William Thomas, S-27 C-52, Gabriola Island, BC, Canada V0R 1X0.